Amendment to the Claims

1. (currently amended) An applier for an anastomosis ring device having proximal, center, and distal rings connected respectively by proximal and distal hinged arms, the ring device having a generally cylindrical shape when unactuated and a rivet shape when actuated, the applier comprising:

an elongate implement portion;

a handle connected to the implement portion;

~~an~~ a first actuating member internally engaged to a selected one of the rings of the anastomosis device;

an arresting member internally engaged to a selected second of the three rings of the anastomosis device;

a second actuating member internally engaged to the third of the three rings of the anastomosis device; and

a first control coupled to the handle operably configured to cause movement of the first actuating member ~~and thus the engaged ring,~~ toward the arresting member~~, and thus the selected second ring,~~;

a second control coupled to the handle operably configured to cause movement of the second actuating member toward the arresting member;

wherein the first and second controls may be selectively positioned to reduce a first longitudinal separation between the center ring and a selected one of the proximal and distal rings causing actuating of the interposed hinged arms of the ring device while maintaining a second longitudinal separation between the center ring and the other ring preventing actuating of the interposed hinged arms of the ring device; and

wherein the first and second controls may be selectively positioned to reduce the longitudinal separation between the center ring and both the proximal ring and distal ring, causing actuating of all of the hinged arms of the ring.

2. (currently amended) The applier of claim 1, wherein the first actuating member is engaged to the distal ring, the second actuating member is engaged to the center ring, and the arresting member is engaged to the proximal ring.

3. – 4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The applier of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the arresting member engages the center ring, ~~the applier further comprising:~~

~~a~~ the second actuating member engaged to the proximal ring[[;]] , and the first actuating member engaged to the distal ring

~~a second control coupled to the handle and operably configured to distally move the proximal ring toward the center ring~~.

6. – 7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The applier of claim 1, wherein the selected one of the first and second actuating ~~member~~ members and the arresting member that is engaged to the distal ring of the ring device distally ~~terminates~~ terminate in a catch.

9. (currently amended) The applier of claim 8, wherein the selected one of the first and second actuating ~~member~~ members and the arresting member that is engaged to the distal ring of the ring device ~~includes~~ include a releasing surface responsive to an actuated condition of the ring device to disengage the actuating member from the selected ring of the ring device.

10. (original) The applier of claim 9, further comprising a distal tip illuminator connected to the implement portion.

11. (original) The applier of claim 1, wherein the implement portion is dimensionally sized for endoscopic surgical use.

12. (currently amended) An applier for an anastomotic ring device having a center circular portion longitudinally connected by a plurality of proximal arms to a proximal ring and by a plurality of distal arms to a distal ring, the ring expanding each plurality of arms by compressing a respective ring toward the center circular portion, the applier comprising:

a first member operative to internally engage ~~and longitudinally move a selected one of a group consisting of~~ the proximal ring~~;, center circular portion, and distal ring; and~~

a second member operative to internally engage the center circular portion ~~another one of the group to thereby mechanically ground for actuating at least one plurality of arms~~;

a third member operative to internally engage the proximal ring; and

a handle;

a first control on the handle operatively configured to position at least one of the first, second and third members to separately actuate the plurality of distal arms; and

a second control on the handle operatively configured to position at least one of the first, second and third members to separately actuate the plurality of distal arms.

13. (currently amended) The applier of claim 12, wherein the center circular portion of the ring device comprises a center ring, the second member engaged to the center ring.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The applier of claim 13, wherein the first and ~~second~~ third members comprise a releasable engagement mechanism responsive to an actuated condition of the anastomotic device.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) [[~~the~~]] The applier of claim 16, further comprising a cannula distally supporting the first and second members and arresting member and proximally attached to the handle, operatively configured to distally receive the anastomotic device, dimensioned for endoscopic use.

18. (currently amended) An applier for an anastomotic ring device having a center ring longitudinally connected by a plurality of proximal arms to a proximal ring and by a plurality of distal arms to a distal ring, the ring expanding each plurality of arms by compressing a respective ring toward the center circular portion, the applier comprising:

a means for inserting an unactuated anastomotic ring device to an anastomotic surgical site;

a means for inwardly compressing proximal and distal rings to actuate both plurality of arms; and

a means for actuating a selected one of pluralities of the proximal arms and of distal arms holding the unselected plurality unactuated for positioning tissue lumens for anastomosis, and for actuating both pluralities of proximal and distal arms to deploy the anastomosis ring device.

19. – 20. (canceled)